

'Sargent' In Charge

Dependable Cleaners Live Up To Name

By Tanna Kasperowicz

Several years ago Pat Sargent was asked what happened to the garments left after 60 days.

"We write on them with ballpoint pen and scorch them," Pat said, dispersing her wit like so many ginger-snaps.

But that's hardly the case. As long as Pat Sargent continues to be on duty at Dependable Cleaners, garments can be forgotten for years and still be retrieved.

Three years ago, the Grover Jackson family moved to Atlanta, Ga. When the Jacksons returned to town for a visit last summer Pat saw Betty Jackson on the street and called from the door: "Hey Betty — tell Grover his shirts are ready!" No one could claim the shirts were 'freshly' laundered, but they were waiting.

A tea kettle is stashed under the cash register, and from 8:30-9 a.m. Dependable is suspiciously looking like a little coffee club these days. But if you drop off an order in that busy half hour, you hardly have to wait. Pat can mend, make change, write up an

order and gab all at the same time.

John Nash, Jr. and Mort Rose are coffee regulars who assist Pat and Dependable employees Lisa Marcagisi, Lydia Trettis and Ida Fortier (presently on leave because of a broken foot). Other regulars include Nancy McLaughlin, Kay Conte, James McArthur and Gert and Andy Davis.

Stick around Dependable for awhile, and you can hear and see most of what's going on around town, i.e. last Wednesday Nash spent all night painting the Scituate Bowling Alley. "It took 35 gallons of paint for the ceiling," Nash said.

It's 9 a.m. last Thursday and Bob Hofferly arrives to pick up "the bag of complaints" and specials which must be back the same day. A couple of customers come in, they get Pat's complete attention, Pat-style. All customers require her to be a visible, negotiable personality. Tell her your problems and like a soap opera, she'll brighten your day by telling you something even more terrible. You think — hey, I don't have it so bad.

Recently Pat's boss, Donald



DEPENDABLE IS as Dependable Does and local cleaning establishment staff, from left, of Pat Sargent, Mort Rose and John Nash enjoy coffee break before resuming task of providing service, no matter how long a customer forgets his laundry.

Fawcett stumbled upon one of her larger coffee sessions and said: "Pat, some morning when you have time from your coffee break I'd like to talk business."

Her worst moments at the store were when she received "a whole suit full of ballpoint ink" — which got in that condition when its wearer, or its wearer's wife put it into a cleaning machine with a ballpoint pen. "But we got every bit out." And then there was the day a four-wheel drive jeep on its way to Texaco came down South Main Street on a sheet of ice and went right

through Dependable's window.

Dependable has a vantage point in Cohasset, with windows on Border Street and South Main, it permits Pat to see the Log & Lion, In-Stitches, The Cohasset News Co., Texaco, and the people frequenting those businesses. She has worked at the cleaning company for eight years. "In fact next week is my anniversary." She started when Billy (her 13-year old) was in first grade (there are six Sargents, ranging from 13-29).

She likes her job and is always worried about getting fired. "I've never gotten up in the morning and said blank, I have to go to work today. Every day is different down here." Aside from working at Dependable, Pat serves as an on-call police matron for both Cohasset and Hull police departments.

She may well be among the greatest observers of the century. But she seems to be unaware that she herself is usually by far the most interesting person in any crowd.

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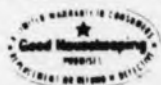
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Cohasset Fire Reports

MONDAY, SEPT. 3

3:37 p.m., Beach St., Auto accident, First Aid, Ambulance Transport.

5:25 p.m., Fire Headquarters, First Aid.

6:55 p.m., Jerusalem Road, Auto Accident.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 4

10:57 a.m., Winter Gardens, Ambulance Transport.

11:52 a.m., Cohasset Knoll, Ambulance Transport.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5

11:06 a.m., Margin St., Ambulance Transport.

4:22 p.m., Woodland Dr., Water Leak.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 6

1:25 p.m., N. Main St., Tree limb down on house.

1:42 p.m., Forest Ave., Wires down.

1:43 p.m., N. Main & Forest

Ave., Investigation.

1:47 p.m., Rte. 3A & Pond

St., Investigation.

7:34 p.m., So. Main St., Arcing wires.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 7

5:34 p.m., 760 C.J.C. Highway, First Aid.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8

7:08 p.m., Arrowood Rd., First Aid.

8:31 p.m., Red Gate Lane, Ambulance Transport.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9

No calls.

Barn/Gallery Exhibition

Three young artists are holding a week-long show at a newly converted barn/gallery at 67 North Main St. at the corner of Sohler Street, through Saturday, September 15. Nathaniel Bowditch and Marsom Pratt, who grew up in Cohasset and went to Thayer Academy and the Museum School of Fine Arts, Boston, are living in the Coulter house (which is adjacent to the barn), with Bowditch's great Aunt Jean Coulter. They worked over the summer converting the barn

into studio, work, and gallery space.

Bowditch is the son of Phil and Marian Bowditch of 33 Cedar Lane. Pratt's parents, Marsom and Tina (formerly of Cohasset) now live in Boston.

Bowditch works in painting, drawing, and photography.

Pratt crafts half hulls made from black walnut, mahogany, and sugar pine; he also has a beautifully carved, working dulcimer; and an interesting arrangement of child-size wooden shoe molds in a rack. The third artist in the show,

a friend and fellow student, is Cyndi Marland of Brookline, whose contribution was in the new art medium of video. After studying at the Museum School, Cyndi is now taking the Advanced Studies Program at MIT in video.

They hope to maintain the barn as a gallery for showings of their own work, as well as work of other young, talented artists, who like themselves, find the problem of exhibiting and having credentials, a Catch-22 situation. Good luck!



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